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FUR0007-US

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

JOJI KASAI ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/361,734

Filed: July 28, 1999

For: AUDIO SIGNAL PROCESSING
CIRCUIT

Art Unit: 2644

Examiner: Michalski, J.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of the claims set forth in the Office Action mailed November 4, 2004.

In the Office Action, claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Schott (U.S. 5,892,831). This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention, as recited, for example, by claim 1, is characterized by generating phase differences of 140 degrees to 160 degrees between the left and right signals. As a result, the present invention can prevent sound image of a monophonic signal from localizing in the head of a listener.

Schott discloses a system in which phase of L+R signal and phase of L-R signal is differed in order to widen sound image. However, Schott does not disclose generating phase differences between the left and right signals, themselves. If a monophonic signal is applied to

Schott's system, sounds from the left and the right speakers are the same and sound image of the monophonic signal is localized in the head of the listener. This is the case especially when the left speaker and the right speaker are located substantially at left and right sides of the listener and because the L-R signal is zero at monophonic signal.

Schott does not have purpose of preventing sound image of the monophonic signal from localizing in the head of the listener and does not disclose generating phase differences between the left and right signals.

With respect to claim 2, the present invention is characterized by generating phase differences of 140 degrees to 160 degrees in a frequency region ranging from 200 Hz to 1 KHz between the left and right signals. As a result, the present invention can prevent sound image of the monophonic signal from localizing in the head of a listener.

Schott does not disclose generating phase differences between the left and right signals. Therefore, Schott can not disclose generating phase differences of 140 degrees to 160 degrees in a frequency region ranging from 200 Hz to 1 KHz between the left and right signals.

The foregoing comments also apply to independent claims 3 and 6.

Since Schott does not disclose or even remotely suggest basic features of the presently claimed invention, Applicants respectfully request that the §102(e) rejection of the claims based on Schott be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is

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desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

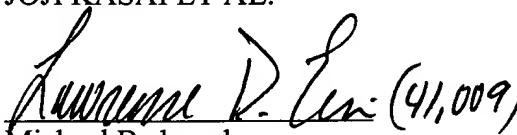
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Date: February 1, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

JOJI KASAI ET AL.

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MDB/LDE

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